

Message Text

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H PASS SENATORS MANSFIELD AND GLENN

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TAGS: OREP (MANSFIELD, MIKE)

SUBJ: CODEL: RESPONSE AND REMARKS OF ACTING PRIME MINISTER KIKI
DURING TALKS WITH SENATORS MANSFIELD AND GLENN

REF: STATE 251471

1. DURING TALKS WITH SENATORS MANSFIELD AND GLENN ACTING PRIME MINISTER SIR MAORI KIKI DEMONSTRATED GREAT WARMTH TOWARD THE USA REPEATEDLY ALLUDING TO FACT THAT WE WERE REGARDED AS GOOD FRIENDS WHOSE PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC WAS CONSIDERED NORMAL BY PNG. HE NOTED THAT PNG AND THE US HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR A LONG TIME AND THAT PNG HAD NOT FORGOTTEN GENERAL MACARTHUR'S IMPACT HERE. SEN MANSFIELD ALLUDED TO HIS DINNER REMARKS OF THE PREVIOUS EVENING (IN WHICH HE HAD POINTED OUT OUR LONG AND FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION WITH PNG, THAT A PNG NATIONAL HAD RECENTLY DIED WHO HAD BEEN AWARDED THE BRONZE STAR DURING WW II, AND THAT ONE WAS STILL LIVING AT MANUS WHO HAD SERVED UNDER THE THEN LT. JOHN F. KENNEDY) AND STATED THAT WE TOO REMEMBERED ALL THAT HAD BEEN DONE FOR THE UNITED STATES BY PNG NATIONALS DURING WW II.

2. IN RESPONSE TO SENATOR GLENN'S INQUIRY AS TO WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS WERE BEING IMPLEMENTED TO DETERMINE THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PNG, KIKI INDICATED THAT KENNICOTT HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN PROVING OUT THE OK-TEDI COPPER DEPOSIT IN THE STAR MOUNTAINS, AND THAT WHILE
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THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH KENNICOTT HAD FAILED, PNG AND KENNICOTT

WERE STILL GOOD FRIENDS. HE NOTED THAT A CONSORTIUM WAS BEING DEVELOPED TO EXPLOIT OK-TEDI (WHICH WOULD BE PNG'S SECOND GREAT COPPER MINE) AND THAT ONE MEMBER OF THE CONSORTIUM WOULD BE A U.S. FIRM.

3. SENATOR MANSFIELD STATED THAT THE CODEL HAD SPENT THREE WEEKS IN CHINA AND THAT PRIME MINISTER SOMARE SHOULD HAVE DEPARTED FROM CHINA. HE WONDERED IF KIKI HAD RECEIVED ANY REPORTS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER ON THE VISIT. KIKI SAID HE HAD ONLY THE PRESS REPORTS BUT WOULD RECEIVE A FULL BRIEFING ON RETURN OF THE PM. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO OUTLINE PNG'S POLICY OF NEUTRALITY AND INDICATED THAT DURING HIS (KIKI'S) VISIT TO THE USSR HE HAD TOLD THE RUSSIANS THAT PNG WAS NEITHER INTERESTED IN THEIR IDEOLOGY NOR IN THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEM, BUT THAT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS PNG WAS WILLING TO WELCOME THEM AS FRIENDS "IF YOU COME AS FRIENDS." HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT NEITHER THE PRC NOR THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM WAS SUITABLE FOR PNG, IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN THAT STATE OWNERSHIP OF LAND IS AN ANATHEMA TO PAPUA NEW GUINEANS WHOSE ATTITUDE HE SUMMARIZED AS "YOU MAY TAKE MY WIFE, YOU MAY TAKE MY PIGS, BUT IF YOU TRY TO TAKE MY LAND I WILL KILL YOU." HE CHARACTERIZED PNG'S TRADITIONAL VILLAGE LIFE AS TRUE SHARING AND STATED "THEY (THE COMMUNISTS) HAVE TRIED TO COPY US BUT FAILED." IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES BY THE SENATORS KIKI ASSERTED THAT PNG WOULD NOT BE OPENING AN EMBASSY IN PEKING BECAUSE OF THE COST INVOLVED. RATHER, A PNG AMBASSADOR FROM A POST NEAR TO CHINA WOULD BE ACCREDITED TO THE PRC AND A CHINESE AMBASSADOR OTHER THAN THE ONE ACCREDITED TO CANBERRA WOULD BE ACCREDITED TO PNG.

4. KIKI NOTED THAT THE EXCEPTION TO PNG'S NEUTRALIST POLICY WAS ITS ABHORRENCE OF APARTHEID AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR US ATTEMPTS TO MEDIATE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA NOTING THAT IT HELPED PNG TO UPHOLD THE USA IN THIRD WORLD FORUMS. HE ASSERTED AGAIN THAT PNG HAD SUPPORTED THE RIGHT OF THE USG TO HAVE A PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC.

5. HE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE WERE ENTERING WESTERN SAMOA AND THE SOVIETS IN TONGA AND THIS WAS DISTURBING TO PNG. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT HE ASSERTED THE US SHOULD GET INVOLVED FIRST, AND NOT SIMPLY RESPOND TO REACT TO USSR OR PRC OVERTURES TO SMALL PACIFIC STATES.

6. IN PARTICULAR KIKI MADE AN ENERGETIC AND FORTHRIGHT APPEAL FOR US INVESTMENT IN PNG: "WE NEED HELP--WE HAVE THE RESOURCES AND THE US HAS THE SKILL AND FINANCES." IN CONCLUDING, SENATOR MANSFIELD STATED THAT HE WAS GREATLY

ENCOURAGED BY SIR MAORI KIKI'S MESSAGE AND WOULD MAKE CERTAIN
THAT PNG'S VERY FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE REGARDING US
INVESTMENT WAS PASSED ON IN WASHINGTON.

7. COMMENT: THE MANSFIELD-GLENN VISIT ELICITED AN
EXTREMELY WARM AND FORTHCOMING RESPONSE FROM KIKI.
AN EASY RAPPORT WAS ESTABLISHED AND AN INTER-ACTION
BETWEEN THE SENATORS AND KIKI SEEMED TO BUILD UPON ITSELF
DURING THE CODEL'S SHORT STAY. WE HAVE NOT YET HAD SUFFICIENT
FEEDBACK ON THE OVERALL IMPACT BUT OUR INITIAL ASSESSMENT
IS THAT IT GAVE A STRONG BOOST TO OUR ALREADY GOOD RELATIONS.
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